

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4 – 6, 8, 10 and 15 – 18 are now pending in the application. Claims 11 – 14 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 2, 3, 7 and 9 have been cancelled. New claims 15 – 18 have been added. Claims 1, 2 and 5 – 10 stand rejected. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

ELECTION/RESTRICTION

Applicant acknowledges election of Group I (claims 1 – 10). Applicant makes no admission as to the correctness of the requirement.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner has indicated that claims 3 and 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As a result, claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form (Amended claim 1). Similarly, claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form (New claim 15).

DRAWINGS

The drawings stand objected to for certain informalities. The Examiner has noted that reference “330” and “354” have not been mentioned in the description. Applicant has provided a replacement paragraph [0027] including appropriate reference to the items identified. Applicant notes that the items were identifying like structure as described in previous embodiments and the items were inadvertently let out of the description as they

pertain to FIG. 6. No new matter has been introduced. Applicant respectfully requests approval of the drawings.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 10 stands objected to for minor informalities. Applicant notes that amendments to claim 10 have corrected such informalities.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 AND 103

Claims 1, 2, 5 – 8 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 3,142,853 (Hensley). Claims 1, 2, 6 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 3,028,617 (Racina). Claims 1, 2, 6 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,363,567 (Woodward). Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hensley. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Applicant notes that claims 1 and 15 have been amended to reflect allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner. As a result, amended claims 1, 15 and dependant claims 4, 5 and 16 – 18, respectively, are likewise in condition for allowance.

Claim 6 has been amended to recite a mounting arm having a lower portion coupled to and extending from said brush assembly and an upper portion selectively coupled to a hitch receiver of the vehicle in an installed position; and wherein said mounting arm defines a stepped portion extending perpendicularly between said lower portion and said upper portion, said stepped portion adapted to present said brush

assembly at a laterally offset orientation from the vehicle toward a ground surface. Applicant respectfully asserts that the collective art of record fails to teach or suggest such a feature.

Racina at best discloses a brush unit 10 supported on a post 2 of a hand pull-cart 1. Wing nut provided bolts 8 are engaged through slots 9 formed in adjacent portions of a clamping sleeve to facilitate its fixed connection to the support post 2 in or at a particularly desired height thereon. A mounting bracket 4 presents a planar mounting structure between the brush unit 10 and the post 2 (FIG. 2).

Woodward at best discloses a brush unit movable in a linear fashion between an extended and retracted position. Planar channel members 13a and 13b present the brush 17 on the same plane as its mounted position on the bottom 12 of a golf cart.

Hensley at best discloses a brush unit A supported on a shaft S of a hand pull-cart C. A yoke 26 is adapted to encircle and frictionally embrace the shaft S. The yoke 26 can be adjusted from right to left (FIG. 4) to the depth of a slot 22. The yoke 26 can be adjusted up and down by moving a nut 36 so as jointly to fit a shaft which is embraced by the yoke 26. Col. 2, Lines 27 – 33. At a distal end of channel 11, a flat-ended shank 42, which may be spirally twisted 45 degrees or so along its longitudinal axis, terminally or outwardly supports a brush head 44.

Applicant respectfully submits that a spirally twisted, flat ended shank does not present a stepped portion. Rotatably twisting the brush member 46 relative to edge 43 (FIG. 4) at the shank 42 simply presents the brush member 46 at an angle relative to the edge 43, not a stepped orientation. Moreover, the arrangement of Hensley does not provide a stepped portion extending perpendicularly between said lower portion and

said upper portion, said stepped portion adapted to present said brush assembly at a laterally offset orientation from the vehicle toward a ground surface, as claimed in the present invention. Applicant submits that there is no suggestion or motivation to provide a stepped portion on the pull cart of Hensley. Alternatively, Hensley teaches away from the instant invention because a height adjustment according to Hensley is accomplished by adjusting the yoke 26 (so as to slide the brush) along the longitudinal shaft S to locate the brush at a desired orientation. As a result, Applicant submits that independent claim 6 and dependant claims 8 and 10 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: Brian D. Hollis
Brian D. Hollis, Reg. No. 51,075

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

BDH:tdr